



## Support

### Senate Bill 64 – HIV Prevention Drugs - Prescribing and Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements

Senate Finance Committee

January 31, 2023

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives supports *Senate Bill 64 – HIV Prevention Drugs - Prescribing and Dispensing by Pharmacists and Insurance Requirements*. The bill permits pharmacists to dispense post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV infection following an exposure or potential exposure to HIV.

ACNM supports this legislation as a public health initiative for the following reasons:

- **Dispensing of PEP is Time Sensitive:** To be effective in preventing HIV, an individual needs to take PEP within 72 hours of potential exposure to HIV. In some circumstances, pharmacists may be in a better position to provide PEP within this time period;
- **Pathway to Primary Care:** Pharmacists can prescribe and dispense a complete course of PEP and then must transition care to a primary care provider. This arrangement will increase the number of people who obtain PEP and who are under the care of a primary care provider.
- **Improved Insurance Coverage:** Federal law requires insurance companies cover preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with no cost share. This bill ensures that the ancillary services patients need as part of being taking PEP or being on PrEP are also covered.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).